

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: DUTCH REACT TO BELGRADE CONFERENCE RESULTS

1. NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER KLAUW TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 10 THAT GON IS DISAPPOINTED THAT BELGRADE HAD NOT YIELDED EVEN A "SOMEWHAT SATISFACTORY" RESULT. HOWEVER, HE CHARACTERIZED AS "POSITIVE" THE DISCUSSIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION BECAUSE HUMAN RIGHTS HAD BEEN REAFFIRMED AS A LEGITIMATE SUBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIONS. VAN DER KLAUW SAID GON WOULD WORK HARD FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT BOTH BEFORE AND DURING THE MADRID CONFERENCE IN 1980.

2. DUTCH AMBASSADOR VAN DER VALK, LEADER OF NETHERLANDS BELGRADE DELEGATION, SAW IT DIFFERENTLY IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A DUTCH NEWSPAPER. VAN DER VALK THOUGHT WEST HAD PUSHED TOO HARD AT BELGRADE. GON HAD SET A CRITICAL TONE AT THE OUTSET AND OTHER COUNTRIES FOLLOWED SUIT. HE SPECULATED THAT US PRESSURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WAS HALFWAY INTENDED FOR US DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, THE BENEFIT OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG. HE WAS OPTIMISTIC, HOWEVER, ABOUT THE PLANNED MADRID FOLLOW-UP.

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3. DUTCH EDITORIAL REACTION REFLECTS SOMETHING OF BOTH VIEWS. DUTCH PRESS SHOWS GENUINE DISAPPOINTMENT AT LACK OF CONCRETE RESULTS FROM BELGRADE. ALTHOUGH MUCH OF DUTCH PRESS WELCOMED US EFFORTS TO SENSITIZE WORLD OPINION TO VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SOME EDITORIALS CLAIM THAT US PRESSED TOO HARD ON HUMAN RIGHTS. OTHER COMMENTATORS SUGGEST THAT BELGRADE TALKS

WERE HOSTAGE TO LACK OF PROGRESS IN SALT. EDITORIAL IN LEADING
"NRC HANDELSBLAD" EVEN MANAGED TO OMIT ANY REFERENCE TO HUMAN
RIGHTS. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A GENERAL BELIEF THAT AGREEMENT
TO FURTHER REVIEW IN MADRID WAS USEFUL ACHIEVEMENT.
BROWN

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